

REMARKS

In the Requirement for Restriction mailed March 29, 2006, the Examiner stated that the captioned application includes two distinct inventions: Invention I, claims 1-20, drawn to a fuel processor, classified in class 48, subclass 61; and Invention II, claims 21-25, drawn to a method of processing fuel, classified in class 48, subclass 197R. The inventions are related as process and apparatus for its practice.

Applicants hereby elect Invention I, claims 1-20, with traverse.

The present invention is directed to a fuel processor and a method of using the fuel processor to process fuel for reforming distillate hydrocarbon fuels containing sulfur to obtain high quality hydrogen product. The method set forth in claims 21-25 describes the use of the fuel processor defined in claims 1-20. The Examiner stated that the apparatus and process are distinct because the fuel processor could be used to practice another materially different process such as one which does not use a distillate fuel feed. However, Applicants note that the separation assembly in claim 1 is specifically defined as being for converting and separating a sulfur-containing distillate fuel feed. Therefore, the fuel processor and the method for its use are interrelated such

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that restriction is not proper. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction is therefore requested.

With the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination on the merits. Examination of claims 1-25 is requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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